

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Mayer et al.)
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Serial No.: 10/524,637)
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Filed: August 15, 2003)
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U.S. National Phase of)
PCT/DE03/02666)
)
For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR)
THE TRANSMISSION OF)
NOTIFICATIONS)
)
Group Art Unit: 2194)
)
Examiner: Kimbleann Verdi)
)
Confirmation No.: 1456)

AMENDMENT "A"

Commissioner for Patents
MS Amendment
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

The Amendments to the Specification section begins on page 2 of this paper.

The Amendments to the Claims section (including a complete listing of claims)
begins on page 5 of this paper.

The Remarks section begins on page 7 of this paper.

IN THE SPECIFICATION (as originally filed):

On page 5, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 28 as follows:

The database is accessed using suitable access means, such as Enterprise Java Beans (EJB) ~~preferably based on EJB technology via Java Entity Beans.~~

On page 7, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 as follows:

It is advantageous to set up an additional database table to store the notifications that are to be sent. The table also serves as an intermediate storage for the second and third notifications to be sent. The table should only serve to administer the queue (Fig. 2), concrete information about parcels and recipients are always read out of the customer database or out of the parcel database.

On page 9, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 6 as follows:

The MQR (Fig. 4) transmits a request for reading new entries to the message storage unit MQDB. The message storage unit MQP reads the entry information from a database and transmits shipment-specific information, especially an identification number for individual parcel compartments, or else mailpieces placed there (ParcelID), user identification information (UserID) and/or information about the electronic parcel compartment system (MachineID) to a storage module CRC that serves to store notification jobs. The storage module CRC forwards this identification information to suitable recipients, for example, users C of the electronic parcel compartment system, to participants in the logistic system, or to the electronic parcel compartment system.

On page 9, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 22 as follows:

An especially preferred embodiment (Figs. 5 and 6) is characterized by the use of different classes of notification. Preferably, a distinction is made between virtual classes and singleton classes.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

~~The disclosure relates to a~~ A method and system for the transmission of notifications wherein data from at least one data bank are transmitted to a central dispatch center, converted there into notification information, and the notification information transmitted to a communication interface and from the communication interface onto one or several receiver devices. ~~The disclosure further relates to a logistic system suitable for application to the method.~~

IN THE CLAIMS (as originally filed):

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for the transmission of notifications by a notification component to users of an electronic parcel compartment system within a postal shipping system, comprising

transmitting data from at least one database to a central sending component,

converting the data in the central sending component ~~unit~~ into notification information,

transmitting the notification information to a communication interface and from the communication interface to at least one receiving device,

storing notification jobs in a storage module and transmitting at least some of the requests for the transmission of notifications by a control circuit to the storage module, ~~and~~

~~a reading module~~ acquiring the notification jobs contained in the storage module by a reading module and transmitting the notification jobs ~~them~~ to the central sending component,

~~the method further comprising~~ transmitting the information for creating jobs to the control circuit via an external interface, whereby the information for creating jobs depends on events within the ~~postal shipping~~ electronic parcel compartment system,

categorizing the events in classes, ~~and~~

the events triggering defined, definable or variable processing steps by the notification component, and

transmitting the notifications to at least one user for whom the event is defined to be pertinent.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, comprising using at least one template, the central sending component converting the data transmitted from the database into the notification information ~~(BI)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A device for the transmission of notifications to users of an electronic parcel compartment system within a postal shipping system having at least one database, in which the users of the electronic parcel compartment system are registered, one central sending component for converting data from the database into notification information, and one communication interface for the transmission of the notification information to receiving devices,

the device further comprising

an external interface that serves for receiving information about events at an electronic parcel compartment system within the postal shipping system and is connected to a control circuit equipped with transmission means for the transmission of notification job requests to a storage module that stores the notification requests, a storage module ~~(CRC)~~ is connected to a reading unit that transmits the notification jobs to a central sending component, the notification requests being based on an event in the electronic parcel compartment system.

REMARKS

This paper is presented in response to the official action dated July 2, 2007, wherein: (a) claims 10-12 were pending; (b) claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,539,360 to Kabada (“Kabada”) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0095454 to Reed et al. (“Reed”), (c) the drawings were objected to, and (d) the abstract was objected to.

This paper is timely filed as it is accompanied by a petition for a one month extension of time and the required fee.

Objection to the Drawings

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the drawings is moot in view of the amendments to the specification presented herein.

Objection to the Abstract

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the abstract is moot in view of the amendments to the abstract presented herein.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 10-12 as obvious over Kabada in view of Reed. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, “all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.” *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981 (CCPA 1974), and M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Each of claims 10-12 recites a method or system for transmission of notifications to users of an electronic parcel compartment system comprising, in part, transmitting notifications to a user based on an event at the electronic parcel compartment system. Neither Kabada nor Reed disclose or suggest transmitting a notification to a user based on an event at an electronic parcel compartment system

Kadaba discloses a method and a system for processing packages designed for a special handling and notifying an appropriate party as to whether special handling has been

applied to these designated packages. The function of the special handling system 10 is to manage communication of data related to the actual handling and transport of packages using the carrier's central computer system 15 that is linked to the consignor's computer system 17 and an internet system 20 operated by the carrier (column 5, line 64 to column 6, line 1). The communications between these components coordinate and manage special handling of designated packages, such as identifying, inspecting and verifying special handling (column 6, lines 1-4).

An e-mail interface 14 is connected to the consignor's computer 17 by a wide area network 42 or the internet and to other computers within the carrier (column 6, lines 18-22). An internet interface 48 connects the central computer system 15 to an intranet 50 operated by the carrier. Consignors and consignees with knowledge of the tracking number can obtain the status of the package by consulting the web page (column 6, lines 51-53). The pager interface 70 connects the central computer system 15 to pages 72 carried by consignors and consignees, and pages 74 carried by carrier personnel such as those associated with the exception centre 11 (column 6, lines 54-57). The entire system is designed to inform customers about packages that require special handling e.g. biological samples requiring appropriate cooling. The carrier can notify the customer directly by e-mail, or by its signal to the customer pages 72, when the packages are available for pick up and when the employee has picked up the package. Thus, the consignee may discover whether the shipment will arrive when expected and in the condition expected in two ways, by checking the internet or the intranet side or by receiving a communication from the carrier (column 9, lines 16-24). However, Kadaba fails to disclose an event at an electronic parcel compartment system that triggers the notification of a user of the electronic parcel compartment system.

Reed et al. (US 2002/0095454 A1) discloses an automatic communications system operative to transfer data, metadata, and methods from a provider computer to a consumer

computer through a communications network. However, Reed fails to disclose that an event at an electronic parcel compartment system triggers the notification of a user of the electronic parcel compartment system.

Because Kadaba and Reed both fail to disclose or suggest an event at an electronic parcel compartment system that triggers notification of a user of the electronic compartment system, none of claims 10-12 can be rendered obvious by any combination of Kadaba and Reed. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10-12.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of the amendments to the specification and claims 10-12, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, he is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

November 2, 2007

By: /Michael A. Chinlund/
Michael A. Chinlund, Reg. No. 28,491
Agent for Applicants

6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300